Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

Medical Assistance Administration

News from HIPAA & Medicaid

**MAA-HIPAA
Bulletin No. 3
September 8, 2003**

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR THE BILLING STAFFS OF HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS:

WASHINGTON'S MEDICAID PROGRAM INSTALLS HIPAA UPGRADE FOR SEPTEMBER TESTING ON AGENCY'S MMIS COMPUTER

OLYMPIA, Wash. – On Labor Day, the Washington State Medicaid program and its primary HIPAA vendor, Affiliated Computer Services (ACS), successfully installed an upgraded version of its Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) – the key state computer system used to process some $50 million in health-care providers' reimbursements each week. The upgrade brings the MMIS into compliance with HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Project spokesmen for the state said a preliminary review indicated the installation was virtually error-free, clearing the way for extensive September testing of the integrated MAA HIPAA solution, which includes MMIS and other automated system components. The problem-free upgrade represents a giant step toward the October 16, 2003, federal deadline for switching over to HIPAA-compliant claims and payment transactions.

Providers and clearinghouses are also starting to test this month, using software called EDIFECS on the Internet to make sure their claims are in correct **format.** Once MAA acceptance testing is complete on the new integrated MAA HIPAA solution, Medicaid providers and clearinghouses will be able to move to a second stage of testing – this time making sure the **content** of their claims is suitable for MMIS.

▶ **REGISTER FOR TESTING:** All providers and submitters (clearinghouses) must first register for testing by filling out the forms in the enrollment packets mailed out in mid-August. Replacement packets are available on the Web (http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/dshshipaa) or by toll-free phone (1-800-833-2051). Some providers and submitters have returned their packets, but many more need to do so.

▶ **WINASAP2003 NOW AVAILABLE:** In another early September success, ACS and Medicaid were able to post the WINASAP2003 software at http://www.acs-gcro.com. It is free to community providers who want to file HIPAA-compliant Medicaid claims after October 16. Providers may download WINASAP2003 or get a CD by calling 1-800-833-2051. Live claims will be accepted after the October 16 deadline.

▶ **POS TESTING OPENS:** Medicaid has also opened testing to Point of Sale (POS) pharmacy providers in September. Pharmacies who wish to test should call Jim Potts at 866-322-5960 ext.3812.

▶ **TALE OF TWO CLEARINGHOUSES:** Some providers have been puzzled by the news that their claims will be sent first to their own clearinghouses and then on to an MAA clearinghouse (ACS EDI Gateway Services), leading several providers to ask if this means they can drop their current clearinghouse or if they will have to share the cost of the second clearinghouse. The answer to both questions is no. EDI Gateway's role is to be a clearinghouse for MAA. It does not replace or duplicate the function of the providers' clearinghouses.

NOTE: Washington State is modifying its current Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) computers to handle the new HIPAA-compliant claims. But Medicaid is not turning off its current claims-handling process, so Washington providers will have a backup if their HIPAA claims run into difficulty. MAA also advises against reverting to paper claims, because the processing takes longer and will delay the entire claims-reimbursement system.

HIPAA HELP (Save these contacts):

- **Affiliated Computer Services (ACS)** hot line for technical testing questions on software or ACS EDI GATEWAY SERVICES: 1-800-833-2051

- **DSHS HIPAA Web site** for free software and HIPAA-compliance information: http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/dshshipaa

- **Federal HIPAA compliance site,** with practical advice for providers and the answers to frequently-asked questions (FAQ): http://www.cms.gov/hipaa

- **Executive summary of MAA's HIPAA compliance plan**: http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/dshshipaa/attachments/pdf/HIPAAExecSummary_012804.pdf

- **ACS EDI Gateway, Inc.:** http://www.acs-gcro.com/Medicaid_Accounts/medicaid_accounts.htm

- **POS:** Email provider.relations@acs-inc.com or call 1-800-365-4944 to get in contact with customer service representatives and set up testing. Information is also available on the ACS Web site at: http://www.acspbmhipaa.com

- **SPECIAL POS SUPPORT:** Randy Stamp (randy.stamp@acs-inc.com)

HUMAN CONTACT:

Chris Johnson, HIPAA Contingency Planning, 360-725-1239
Bob Burlingame, HIPAA Provider Testing, 360-725-1256
Becky Boutilier, HIPAA Communications Manager, 360-725-2129 (boutibm@dshs.wa.gov)
Jim Stevenson, MAA Communications Director, 360-725-1915 (stevejh2@dshs.wa.gov)
Send email questions to hipaacommunications@dshs.wa.gov

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